

BY: Senator O'MARA

HONORING Joe Caparulo, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging on May 21, 2019

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joe Caparulo, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging at its Annual Older New Yorker's Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the Hart Theatre Lounge in The Egg, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each May, the New York State Office for the Aging pauses to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by older citizens during National Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, Members of older generations have helped build and shape our Nation to be the greatest in the world; they have defended our freedoms and values to ensure that those who come after them may have better lives; nowhere in the Nation is the legacy of their efforts more visible and more a part of the lives of all citizens than here in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A lifetime resident of Elmira, New York, in Chemung County, Joe Caparulo, Jr. is the former owner/proprietor of Cappy's Gift Store; in this role, he not only ran a successful business, but was also a friend to all; he was always ready and willing to help anyone in need, whether it was a dollar for a loaf of bread, money for gas, a gift certificate for a community fundraiser, or just taking the time to listen; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Joe Caparulo, Jr. has dedicated his time and energies to making his beloved hometown a better place to live, work and play; he has expressed his voice for social change and community building through the arts and extensive community service; he has also written several documents regarding urban revitalization and poverty reduction; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Joe Caparulo, Jr. has served on multiple community boards of directors, and has supported various local programs such as the Bright Red Bookshelf, the Community Room Gallery, and The Friends of the CCLD Annual Book Sale; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to his community, Joe Caparulo, Jr. was the recipient of the 2012 Jefferson Award for Social Justice Issues, and was chosen as the Elmira delegate to the National Jefferson Award Conference in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his girlfriend, Lynne Rusinko, who has shown him love and support and rejoices in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joe Caparulo, Jr. has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Joe Caparulo, Jr., a very active and industrious gentleman, has inspired and enriched the lives of those he serves through his volunteerism, generously sharing the wisdom gained over years of experiencing life to its fullest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joe Caparulo, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York State Office for the Aging on May 21, 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joe Caparulo, Jr.